AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A controlled release and taste-masking oral pharmaceutical composition containing an active ingredient, comprising:

a) a lipophilic matrix consisting of lipophilic compounds in which an active ingredient is at least partially incorporated;

b) an amphiphilic matrix in which an active ingredient is at least partially incorporated; and

c) a hydrophilic matrix in which said lipophilic matrix and said amphiphilic matrix are dispersed.

2. (previously presented) The controlled release composition according to claim 1, comprising a lipophilic or inert matrix consisting of lipophilic compounds with a melting point below 90°C and wherein the active ingredient is at least partially inglobated and a hydrophilic matrix.

3. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising amphiphilic compounds that are polar lipids of type I or II, ceramides, glycol alkyl ethers, esters of fatty acids with polyethylene glycols or diethylene glycols.

4. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of unsaturated or hydrogenated alcohols or fatty acids, salts, esters or amides thereof, mono-, di- or triglycerides of fatty acids, the polyethoxylated derivatives thereof, waxes, and cholesterol derivatives.

5. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic matrix consists of hydrogel-forming compounds.

6. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 5, wherein the hydrophilic matrix consists of compounds selected from the group consisting of acrylic or methacrylic acid polymers or copolymers, alkylvinyl polymers, hydroxyalkylcellulose, carboxyalkyl-cellulose, polysaccharides, dextrins, pectins, starches and derivatives, alginic acid, natural or synthetic gums, and polyalcohols.

7. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, comprising a gastro-resistant coating.

8. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 7, wherein the gastro-resistant coating consists of methacrylic acid polymers or cellulose derivatives.

9. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of tablets, capsules or minitablets.

10. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of tablets, capsules or minitablets.

11. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 1, in which the active ingredient belongs to the therapeutical classes of analgesics, antitussives, bronchodilators, antipsychotics, selective β 2 antagonists, calcium antagonists, antiparkinson drugs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antihistamines, antidiarrheals and intestinal antiinflammatories, ~~apasmolytics,~~ spasmolytics, anxiolytics, oral antidiabetics, cathartics, antiepileptics, topical antimicrobials.

12. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of mesalazine (5-aminosalicylic acid), budesonide, metformin, octylonium bromide, gabapentin, carbidopa, nimesulide, propionylilcarnitine, isosorbide mono- and dinitrate, naproxen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, diclofenac, thiaprophenic acid, nimesulide, chlorhexidine, benzydamine, tibezonium iodide, cetylpyridinium chloride, benzalkonium chloride, and sodium fluoride.

13. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, containing bioadhesive substances.

14. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, in the form of tablets chewable or erodible

in the buccal cavity or in the first portion of the gastrointestinal tract.

15-19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A controlled release and taste-making composition, comprising:

a) an active ingredient inglobated in a matrix or coating consisting of amphiphilic compounds to form a matrix;

b) said matrix is incorporated in a low melting lipophilic excipient or mixture of excipients to form an inert matrix; and

c) said inert matrix is mixed together with one or more hydrophilic water-swellable excipients.

21. (new) A controlled release and taste-masking oral pharmaceutical composition containing an active ingredient incorporated in a three component matrix structure, comprising:

a) a lipophilic matrix consisting of lipophilic compounds in which an active ingredient is at least partially incorporated;

b) an amphiphilic matrix in which an active ingredient is at least partially incorporated; and

c) a hydrophilic matrix in which said lipophilic matrix and said amphiphilic matrix are dispersed.

22. (new) The controlled release composition according to claim 21, comprising a lipophilic or inert matrix consisting of lipophilic compounds with a melting point below 90°C and wherein

the active ingredient is at least partially inglobated and a hydrophilic matrix.

23. (new) The composition according to claim 21, further comprising amphiphilic compounds that are polar lipids of type I or II, ceramides, glycol alkyl ethers, esters of fatty acids with polyethylene glycols or diethylene glycols.

24. (new) The composition according to claim 21, wherein the composition further comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of unsaturated or hydrogenated alcohols or fatty acids, salts, esters or amides thereof, mono-, di- or triglycerides of fatty acids, the polyethoxylated derivatives thereof, waxes, and cholesterol derivatives.